

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 233-0696
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7221

BILL NUMBER: SB 490

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 12, 2015

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Recounts and Contests.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *Absentee Ballots*- The bill requires that, after December 31, 2015, the words "absentee ballot" be printed in prominent type with uniform capital letters at the top of every absentee ballot prepared and printed by a county election board.

Recount Commissions and Voting System Experts- The bill eliminates the requirement that the third member of a recount commission be a mechanic. The bill requires that all: (1) contracts or leases for the sale or lease of; or (2) service contracts for preelection and election day maintenance or support of; voting equipment, systems, or software entered into, amended, or renewed after December 31, 2015, must include a provision that requires the vendor or service provider of the voting equipment, systems, or software, in the event of a contest or recount of an election in which the vendor's or service provider's voting equipment, systems, or software is used, to provide to the recount commission a competent expert who is familiar with the voting equipment, systems, or software used in the election.

Uniform Deadlines for Filing Recount Petitions- The bill provides that multiple recount petitions, in order to be consolidated, must be filed not later than noon on the fourteenth day (in the case of petitions filed by candidates) or seventeenth day (in the case of petitions filed by county chairmen) after election day. (Under current law, the petitions must be filed not later than noon on the seventh day after election day.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Recount Commissions and Voting System Experts*- This provision would have an indeterminable impact on future contracts between counties and election system vendors. Requiring a vendor to provide a qualified expert during recounts could potentially increase contract costs for voting services provided by the vendor to the county.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards; county recount commissions.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.